

wherein the recombinant AAV is free of contaminating adenoviral helper virus detectable by histochemical staining.

37. A method of delivering apolipoprotein E (ApoE) to a mammal with atherosclerosis, said method comprising the step of

administering to the mammal a composition intramuscularly, said composition comprising a recombinant adeno-associated virus (AAV) suspended in a biologically compatible carrier,

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wherein said recombinant AAV comprises (a) a 5' AAV inverted terminal repeat (ITR), (b) nucleic acid sequences encoding human apolipoprotein E (ApoE) operably linked to regulatory sequences which direct expression thereof and (c) a 3' AAV ITR,

wherein said recombinant AAV is free of contaminating adenoviral helper virus detectable by histochemical staining and wherein the ApoE in said composition is expressed in the mammal.

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein the recombinant AAV contains less than 1 infectious unit of wild-type AAV per 10^9 AAV.